

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 382

By Reeves

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Benton "Bubba" Woodfin of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Benton "Bubba" Woodfin, a fourth-generation funeral director who comforted numerous families in their time of need as president of Woodfin Memorial Chapel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodfin's career in funeral service began when he rode with his father in an ambulance at the age of twelve; from this beginning, he compassionately, selflessly, and humbly served the people of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County his entire life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodfin preferred working behind the scenes to help others through his profession; he was renowned for the famous cornbread he made to help comfort the many families Woodfin Chapel served over the years; and

WHEREAS, he served as president of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association in 1974-1975 and was a former officer with National Selected Morticians; and

WHEREAS, a 1954 graduate of Murfreesboro Central High School, Mr. Woodfin attended Middle Tennessee State College (MTSC) before being inducted into the United States Army; after completing his military service, he enrolled at John A. Gupton College, from which he graduated in 1957; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time, he enjoyed automobiles and regularly drove the vehicles transporting dignitaries in area parades; his friends and neighbors have since said that Mr. Woodfin made you feel as if you were an honored guest whenever you rode with him; and

WHEREAS, an avid sportsman and outdoorsman who was a past president of the Rutherford County Sportsmen's Club, Mr. Woodfin hunted and fished throughout the world and especially loved hunting with his friends in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, he was a sixty-three-year member, past president, and Paul Harris Fellow of the Murfreesboro Noon Rotary Club and truly lived by the organization's motto, "Service Above Self"; and

WHEREAS, he expressed his faith as a lifelong member and elder of Central Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodfin was involved in countless philanthropic endeavors with his wife, Kay; they were named the 2009 Heart Ball Honorees for their service as role models in promoting a healthier lifestyle in the face of heart disease and the 2014 Philanthropists of the Year by the St. Thomas Rutherford Society; and

WHEREAS, Bubba Woodfin first met the girl of his dreams and future wife, the former Kay Shannon, while they were both students at MTSC; they were married less than a year later, and the couple celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary just prior to Mr. Woodfin's passing; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his beloved wife, Mr. Woodfin is survived by his daughters, Shannon Parsons and her husband, David, Katherine "Kit" Ramsay and her husband, Chuck, Melissa Combs and her husband, Ron, and Ashley Backer and her husband, John; his sister, Frances "Sissy" Follis and her husband, Don; his grandchildren, Kati Milam and her husband, Philip, Charlie Ramsay and his wife, Amanda, Hannah Margaret Allen, Gracie and Meg Combs, and Ann Frances, Katherine, and Jack Backer; and his great-grandchildren, Ramsay Kate and Oliver Milam and Addison, Ella, and Lucy Ramsay; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, John T. Woodfin, Jr., and Virginia Black Woodfin; his sister, Virginia Love Woodfin Beasley; and his brother-in-law, Harold Beasley; and

WHEREAS, Bubba Woodfin was a compassionate man who dedicated his life to comforting people when they had lost a loved one, and his legacy will live on through his many acts of kindness; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Benton "Bubba" Woodfin of Murfreesboro, reflecting fondly upon his life of purpose and commitment to others, and extend our condolences and deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.